

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed October 14, 2004. Upon entry of this response, claims 1-34, 38-41, and 43-51 remain pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, pending claims 1-9 and 12-21 have been preliminarily rejected for double patenting, claims 35 and 36 have been preliminarily rejected for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 37 and 42 have been preliminarily rejected for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 10, 11, and 38-41 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim. Claims 22-34 and 43-51 have been allowed. The Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot and/or accommodated. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application and presently pending claims 1-34, 38-41, and 43-51 is respectfully requested.

I. Response To Claim Rejections Based On Anticipation

In the Office Action, claims 35 and 36 have been rejected based on 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,719,381 to Miles (hereafter "Miles"). The Applicants herein withdraw claims 35 and 36, rendering the rejection moot.

II. Response To Claim Rejections Based On Obviousness

In the Office Action, claim 37 has been preliminarily rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miles in view of Fanning and claim 42 has been preliminarily rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as

being unpatentable over Lordo in view of the Japanese Reference. Claims 37 and 42 are hereby withdrawn, rendering this rejection moot.

III. Response to Claim Rejections Based on Double Patenting

Claims 1-9 and 12-21 are preliminarily rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims from U.S. Patent No. 6,664,666. In response to this rejection, the Applicants herein enclose a terminal disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner stated claims 10 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 10 depends from claim 1, which the Applicants submit is allowable as discussed herein and claim 11 depends from claim 10. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request the objection to claims 10 and 11 be withdrawn.

The Examiner stated claims 38-41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 38 is an independent claim from which claims 39-41 depend. In a telephone conversation with Examiner Jones on October 20, 2004, Examiner Jones concurred that the objection to claims 38-41 were in error and, at least for reasons articulated on page 5 of the October 20, 2004 office action, claims 38-41 are allowable claims.

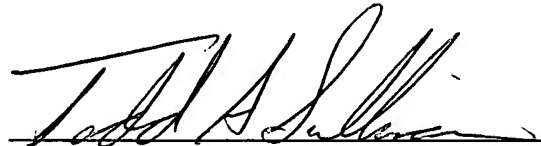
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CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and rejections have been traversed, rendered moot and/or accommodated, and that presently pending claims 1-34, 38-41, and 43-51 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and the presently pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-1400.

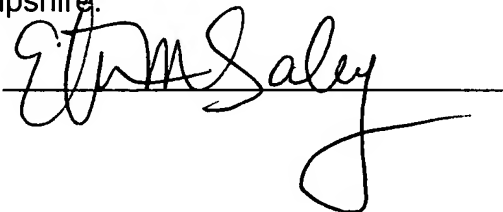
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 9, 2004 at Manchester, New Hampshire.

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